

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CU-02 SY-05 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /089 W

----- 035853

R 061004Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4336

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 5304

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: MAY DAY CELEBRATION

REF: ADDIS 4954

1. SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA CELEBRATED ITS FIRST MAY DAY EVER IN CEREMONIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ADDIS ABABA CEREMONY SAW TENS OF THOUSANDS MARCHING THROUGH STREETS OF CITY IN CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE. IN CEREMONIES HELD AT MESKAL SQUARE, WHERE REVIEWING STAND SET UP FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS, SPEECHES WERE GIVEN BY PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BANTI AND ALEM ABDI, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF CONFEDERATION OF ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNIONS (CELU).

2. CONTENT OF TEFERI'S SPEECH GENERALLY MODERATE AND EMPHASIZED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONAL UNITY. ALEM'S SPEECH, ON THE OTHER HAND, AS MIGHT BE

EXPECTED OF A LABOR LEADER UNDER A SOCIALIST REGIME, INCLUDED STRIDENT REMARKS DIRECTED AGAINST IMPERIALISM WHICH HE CLAIMED HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETELY OVERCOME IN ETHIOPIA. EMBASSY POUCHING TEXTS OF SPEECHES.

3. PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF OFFICIAL CEREMONIES, GROUP OF STUDENTS ESTIMATED BY TWO AMERICAN SOURCES AT TWO TO THREE THOUSAND ATTEMPTED TO MARCH IN DIRECTION OF REVIEWING STAND. STUDENTS CARRIED PICTURES OF MAO, CHE, LENIN, ET AL AND REPORTEDLY SHOUTED ANTI-US SLOGANS. A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 20 COMMANDO POLICE, APPARENTLY PREPARED FOR THE GROUP, CHARGED IN AND ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 30 OF THE DEMONSTRATION LEADERS. ENTIRE INCIDENT REPORTEDLY LASTED ONLY FIVE TO TEN MINUTES AND WAS LITTLE NOTICED AMONG THE OTHER FESTIVITIES.

4. EMBASSY OFFICERS TRAVELING SOUTH (DEBRE ZEIT, LANGANO, SHASHEMANE) ON MAY DAY WITNESSED MANY PEACEFUL, WELL-ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS GENERALLY SPEARHEADED BY ZEMATCHA STUDENTS CARRYING RED FLAGS IN MANY SMALL TOWNS ALONG ROUTE.

5. CONTRARY TO EARLIER PREDICTIONS, NO DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, SUCH AS CURRENCY REFORM OR RELEASE OF SOME DETAINEES, WERE FORTHCOMING.

HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MAY DAY, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MAY DAY CELEBRATION  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ET  
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